

CLAIMS

1. An FEP pellet having a volatile content of 0.2 %
by weight or less,

5 wherein said FEP pellet satisfies the following
requirements (i) and (ii) when used to form an insulating
material coating a core wire by extrusion coating at a
coating speed of 2,800 ft/min.:

10 (i) an adhesive strength between said insulating material
and said core wire of 0.8 kg or more; and
 (ii) an average number of cone-breaks in said insulating
material of one or less per 50,000 ft of the coated core
wire.

15 2. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1,
 which comprises an FEP having an adhesion terminus,
 said adhesion terminus comprising at least one
functional group species selected from the group consisting
of -COOM, -SO₃M, -OSO₃M, -SO₂F, -SO₂Cl, -COF, -CH₂OH, -CONH₂
20 and -CF=CF₂, and

 M being the same or different and representing an
alkyl group, a hydrogen atom, a metallic cation or a
quaternary ammonium cation.

25 3. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 2,
 wherein the adhesion terminus comprises -COF, -COOH
and/or -CH₂OH, and

 the total number of -COF, -COOH and -CH₂OH is 15 to
150 per 1,000,000 carbon atoms.

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 4. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 3,
 wherein the total number of -COF and -COOH is 2 to
25, and

 the number of -COF is 0 to 5, -COOH is 2 to 25 and
35 -CH₂OH is 0 to 148 per 1,000,000 carbon atoms.

5. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, having a melt flow rate of 30 (g/10 minutes) or more.

5 6. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, having a die swell of 18 to 35%.

7. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 6, having an MIT bending life of 4,000 cycles or more, and
10 said FEP pellet comprising a tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether).

8. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 7,
15 wherein said perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) is perfluoro(propyl vinyl ether).

9. An FEP pellet comprising a
20 tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether), having a melt flow rate of 30 (g/10 minutes) or more, and
 having a volatile content of 0.2 % by weight or less,
25 wherein said tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) has an adhesion terminus,

 said adhesion terminus comprising at least one
30 functional group species selected from the group consisting of -COOM, -SO₃M, -OSO₃M, -SO₂F, -SO₂Cl, -COF, -CH₂OH, -CONH₂ and -CF=CF₂, and

 M being the same or different and representing an alkyl group, a hydrogen atom, a metallic cation or a
35 quaternary ammonium cation.

10. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9,
wherein said adhesion terminus comprises -COF, -COOH
and/or -CH₂OH, and

5 the total number of -COF, -COOH and -CH₂OH is 15 to
150 per 1,000,000 carbon atoms.

11. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the total number of -COF and -COOH is 2 to
10 25, and

the number of -COF is 0 to 5, -COOH is 2 to 25 and
-CH₂OH is 0 to 148 per 1,000,000 carbon atoms.

12. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9, 10 or 11,
15 wherein the

tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoro-propylene copolymer
modified with perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) is one having
a weight ratio of contents of tetrafluoroethylene,
hexafluoropropylene and perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) as
20 monomer components of 70 to 90 : 10 to 20 : 0 to 10.

13. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9, 10, 11 or
12,

wherein said perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) is
25 perfluoro(propyl vinyl ether).

14. The FEP pellet as claimed in claim 9, 10, 11,
12 or 13,

wherein the melt flow rate is 30 to 50 (g/10 minutes).

15. An insulating material formed from the FEP
pellet as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13 or 14.

16. An insulated cable comprising a core wire

extrusion-coated with an insulating material prepared from the FEP pellet as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14.

- 5 17. A process for insulating a core wire,
 which comprises extrusion coating the core wire with
a molten insulating material comprising the FEP pellet as
claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
or 14.

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